

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) ~~A method for providing an information portal in a contract manufacturing framework~~ In a contract manufacturing framework, a method of providing access to contract manufacturing services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a particular service provider and contract manufacturing services provided by the service provider, and wherein the database further includes a plurality of links to information;

(b) identifying a particular service provider data structure;

(c) identifying a particular link based on the request data;

(d) sending the user the identified service provider data structure ~~and so as to identify to the user a particular service provider, and sending the user the identified link;~~ and

(e) allowing the user to obtain additional information utilizing the identified link.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service provider data structures include data concerning contract service providers.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning legal services.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identified link is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identified link is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country licensing.

6. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a network.

7. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

8. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for providing ~~an information portal~~ access to contract manufacturing services in a contract manufacturing framework comprising:

(a) a code segment for providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a particular service provider and contract manufacturing services provided by the service provider, and wherein the database further includes a plurality of links to information;

(b) a code segment for identifying a particular service provider data structure based on request data from a user;

(c) a code segment for identifying a particular link based on the request data;

(d) a code segment for sending the user the identified service provider data structure and so as to identify to the user a particular service provider, and sending the user the identified link; and

(e) a code segment for allowing the user to obtain additional information utilizing the identified link.

9. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the service provider data structures include data concerning contract service providers.

10. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning legal services.

11. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identified link is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.

12. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identified link is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country licensing.

13. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a network.

14. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the network is the Internet.

15. - 21. (canceled)

22. (new) In a contract manufacturing framework, a method of providing access to contract manufacturing services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a particular service provider and descriptions of contract manufacturing services provided by the service provide;

(b) receiving request data concerning a desired service from a user;

(c) querying the database using the request data;

(d) identifying a particular service provider data structure based on said desired service so as to identify to the user a particular service provider capable of providing said desired service; and

(e) sending the user the identified service provider data structure.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning contract service providers.

24. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning legal services.

a² 25. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the request data includes data concerning pharmaceuticals.

26. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a network.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the network is the Internet.